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1989/08/02

CONSULAR SERVICES

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A. CHINA-WIDE CONSULAR PROFILE

--Staffing: 22 permanent American employees and 55 Chinese contract staff

--FY-88 Workload

Immigrant visa applications: 19,333
Nonimmigrant visa applications: 129,776
American tourists: 300,000
American deaths: 529-59
Arrests: 6

--Chief Management Concerns

heavy visa workload, increasing at average of 15% per year;
lack of space at all posts except Shenyang;
limited use of consular automation systems (largely due to security concerns).

B. TIANANMEN CRISIS: ASSISTANCE TO AMERICANS IN BEIJING

--Six officers in Tiananmen Square night of June 3 urge Americans to leave scene;

--24-hour Citizens Emergency Center set up at 8 AM, Sunday, June 4; called 1,200 Americans registered with Embassy, answered 1000s of calls daily;

--Officers sent to hospitals afternoon of June 4 to search for Americans; only one citizen injured on Square, visited by Embassy doctor;

--Initially advised Americans to remain in their homes until situation clarified; began calling them back on June 6 to urge them to leave;

--To respond to disruption in public transportation and shortage of rental vehicles, organized daily convoys June 5-11 using Embassy officers as drivers to ferry Americans from areas of most imminent danger to safer locations; sent convoys to Tianjin (to pick up 89 person) and train station (100 persons, including 44 elderly citizens);

--Organized three special charter flights from Beijing to Tokyo and one from Wuhan to Hong Kong, coordinated with Canadian Embassy on charter from Dalian;

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--Streamlined repatriation loan procedures so that Americans wishing to leave on USG flights could do so without ticket or money; dispensed \$5,000 in emergency loans to Americans who wanted to leave on regular commercial flights;

--Issued visas on emergency basis to facilitate departure of immediate relatives of U.S. citizens; made special efforts to coordinate departure of U.S. citizen minors and their alien escort.

C. POST-TIANANMEN CONSULAR ISSUES

--Despite new PRC exit rules, demand for visa services remains strong; no drop in number of student visa applicants; Embassy alone has issued 1,500 student/scholar visas since resuming visa operations in mid-June;

--Embassy forced to limit number of applicants each day because of reduced consular staff due to dependent evacuation order; large increase in correspondence, including 300 Congressional inquiries since early June;

--Legislative proposals introduced on behalf of PRC students in U.S., including bill to grant permanent resident status to all F and J visa holders in U.S. as of June 6, 1989, could jeopardize bilateral educational/cultural programs.